

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 09548 100837Z

12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/060 W

----- 054004

R 100728Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6688

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 9548

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, GR

SUBJECT: PAPANDREOU GOES COURTING THE MILITARY

1. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU'S FLIRTATION WITH THE GREEK MILITARY HAS BECOME A PUBLIC COURTSHIP. WHILE THE PASOK LEADER HAS DIRECTED SOOTHING WORDS IN THE DIRECTION OF THE OFFICERS IN THE PAST, HIS SEPTEMBER 8 SPEECH MARKING THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE FOUNDATION OF HIS MOVEMENT TWO YEARS AGO WAS AN ESCALATION IN THE BLATANCY WITH WHICH HE DELIVERED HIS BLANDISHMENTS.

2. PAPANDREOU'S SPEECH WAS OF COURSE FILLED WITH HIS STANDARD THEMES. THE DEMAND FOR A DISENGAGEMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES AND THE WEST, THE ACCUSATION THAT THE UNITED STATES AND NATO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF GREECE'S PAST AND PRESENT ILLS, AND VAGUE DESCRIPTIONS OF THE "SOCIALISM" PASOK INTENDS TO BRING TO GREECE. BUT IT WAS ITS ATTEMPT TO ROMANCE THE GREEK MILITARY THAT CAUGHT MOST OBSERVERS' EYE.

3. PAPANDREOU APPEALED TO THE MILITARY ON SEVERAL LEVELS. ON ONE HE ADDRESSED OFFICERS WHO MAY BE DISSATISFIED WITH CARAMANLIS' ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 09548 100837Z

AEGEAN DISPUTE. HE SPELLED OUT AT SOME LENGTH HIS VIEW THAT

ATTEMPTS TO APPEASE THE TURKS WHOSE ACTIONS HE SAID ARE STIMULATED BY THE USG AND TOLERATED BY THE SOVIETS, WILL INEVITABLY LEAD TO EITHER UNACCEPTABLE CONCESSIONS TO THEM OR TO WAR. HE REPEATED HIS POSITION THAT ONLY IF THE TURKS MEET FIRM RESISTANCE FROM THE GREEKS WILL GREEK INTERESTS BE PROTECTED AND WAR AVOIDED.

4. IN HIS SPEECH PAPANDREOU ALSO SOUGHT TO TELL THE GREEK MILITARY AS A WHOLE THAT IT WAS BLAMELESS IN THE TRAUMAS OF RECENT GREEK HISTORY-- INCLUDING THE SEVEN YEARS OF MILITARY DICTATORSHIP AND THE CYPRUS DEBACLE. HE ENTIRELY DROPPED HIS PAST CONSTANT DEMAND FOR A COMPLETE PURGE OF "PRO-JUNTA" GREEK OFFICERS. INSTEAD, HE ARGUED THAT THE GREEK MILITARY HAD BEEN REPEATEDLY ABUSED AND MISUSED BY THE UNITED STATES, THE "ALLIANCE", THE PRO-JUNTA LEADERSHIP OF THE ARMED FORCES, THE MONARCHY AND THE GREEK RIGHT. HE ACCUSED THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF SEEKING TO "IMPRESS" ITS POLITICS ON THE GREEK OFFICER CORPS. PAPANDREOU SAID THAT IN FACT GREEK OFFICERS HAVE NOT ONLY A RIGHT TO THEIR OWN OPINIONS BUT TO EXPRESS THEM THROUGH THEIR VOTE AND THROUGH THEIR VOICE "WHEN NOT ON DUTY".

5. COMMENT: THE BENIGN INTERPRETATION OF THE FOREGOING IS THAT PAPANDREOU IS MERELY TRYING TO OVERCOME OPPOSITION TO HIMSELF AND HIS POLITICS AMONG THE GREEK MILITARY, AND THEREBY REMOVE THE OFFICER CORPS AS AN OBSTACLE TO HIS DRIVE FOR FUTURE ACCESSION TO THE LEADERSHIP OF GREECE. CERTAINLY THIS IS PART OF HIS PURPOSE. BUT PAPANDREOU IS NOT BENIGN. AND IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT ANYBODY SO AMBITIOUS IS WILLING TO RESTRICT HIMSELF TO SUCH LIMITED GOALS. MORE LIKELY, HE IS HOPING TO POSITION HIMSELF SO THAT IN TIME OF NATIONAL CRISIS -- AND PARTICULARLY ONE OVER THE AEGEAN -- THE MILITARY, OR ELEMENTS OF IT, WOULD NOT MERELY STAND ASIDE AND PERMIT HIM TO RISE TO POWER BUT, RATHER, WOULD PROPEL HIM IN THAT DIRECTION.

6. WE, OF COURSE, HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT SUCH A
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ATHENS 09548 100837Z

DEVELOPMENT IS IN THE MAKING. HOWEVER, THE QUESTION NOW BECOMES NOT ONLY ONE OF PAPANDREOU'S PURPOSES BUT OF WHO IS LISTENING TO HIS SONG, IN THE MILITARY AND BEYOND.

7. ONE GROUP IS, OF COURSE, THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF THE COUNTRY. BUT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PAPANDREOU, CARAMANLIS' POLICY OF SEEKING A NEGOTIATED AEGEAN

SETTLEMENT CONTINUES TO HAVE BROAD SUPPORT FROM THE OPPOSITION. AND THOUGH HE DEALTH SCATHINGLY WITH THE GOG'S POLICIES, PAPANDREOU DID NOT DARE ATTACK CARAMANLIS PERSONALLY, A MEASURE OF HIS CONTINUED RESPECT FOR THE WIDE SUPPORT THE PRIME MINISTER ENJOYS IN THE COUNTRY. AS LONG AS CARAMANLIS CONTINUES TO HAVE THIS KIND OF POPULAR SUPPORT, PAPANDREOU'S CHANCES OF PROJECTING HIMSELF AS A PLAUSIBLE NATIONAL LEADER ARE REMOTE. WE BELIEVE THAT PAPANDREOU'S ABILITY TO CURRY FAVOR WITH THE GREEK ARMED FORCES IS EQUALY LIMITED IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. HIS PREVIOUS WHOLESALE ATTACK ON THE GREEK ARMED FORCES AND HIS OWN LESS-THAN-HEROIC RECORD AT TIMES OF NATIONAL CRISIS ARE WELL-KNOWN BOTH TO THE GREEK PUBLIC AND TO THE GREEK MILITARY.

KUBISCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, ANTIAMERICAN, SPEECHES, ANTINATO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS09548
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760342-0063
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760975/aaaaclqv.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAPANDREOU GOES COURTING THE MILITARY
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, GR, TU, (PAPANDREOU, ANDREAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006